

how chronic diseases affected her community. She obtained her Bachelors' Degree in Nursing with honors from Chamberlain College of Nursing in 2010 and her Master of Science degree in Nursing with honors from Walden University as a Family Nurse Practitioner in 2014. She has been employed with a rural health clinic, Northeast Mississippi Health Care, providing primary care to residents in Mississippi who might otherwise not be able to afford care. Chrystal has worked in various settings in the nursing field. She has worked with Special Needs adults, Women's Health, Medical Surgical Nursing, Emergency Room, Infection Control Nursing, Home Health, and Hospice. In her spare time, she provides nurse consulting. Outside of work, she is very active in her community, where she participates in community activism and provides health education in various settings. Her passion is for the education of young women on self-esteem.

Chrystal is married to Davie Davis, and they have three children: Chelsea, Jamaal and Dawoud. Chrystal gives her mother Emma all the credit for her ability to be a loving mother, sister, and aunt. Her mother Emma raised her to: "Do her best at whatever she decides to do, but always remain humble and give God praise in everything." Her family and friends are very important in her life.

Chrystal has been a faithful member of the Nation of Islam for over twenty-five years; a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated; a member of various nursing leadership organizations; and, she is an active participant in all of these organizations.

Chrystal's leadership, passion, dedication, endurance, dependability, and service has made her synonymous with being one of the best, if not the best Nurse Practitioner in Mississippi. She is often praised by her patients for going above and beyond the call of duty to ensure that they receive the most competent health care services. Chrystal is recognized for her service to God, her family, her country, her community, and the people that seek her help.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Chrystal Williams-Davis, Family Nurse Practitioner, for her dedication to serving this great state and country.

#### HONORING TOBI PARKS AS IOWAN OF THE WEEK

#### HON. CYNTHIA AXNE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 2, 2022*

Mrs. AXNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Tobi Parks, the founder of xBk and the Board Vice President for the National Independent Venue Association Foundation, as Iowan of the Week.

Surrounded by music her entire life, Tobi describes herself as a musician and creator at heart. Growing up with an understanding of what it takes to be successful in the music industry, Tobi was conscious that her unwavering passion for music could lead to a viable and fulfilling career path. Studying media communications and audio production at Webster University, Tobi was able to foster her interests academically. While at first, Tobi was

scared to put herself out there, those concerns never stopped her from pursuing her dreams in the music industry whether it was completing gigs or hosting shows on the radio. After university, Tobi moved to New York, where she worked for Sony focusing on copy-right and licensing work. However, in 2015, Tobi moved to Des Moines and in the same year, she established an artist-development nonprofit label called Station One Records. Station One Records was created with the objective of granting artists the development that she wishes she could have had. In the end, the nonprofit promotes that finding and cultivating talent is the priority rather than the financial benefits and end results.

As a woman of color and a member of the LGBTQ+ community, moving to Des Moines with her family was a considerable change from her life in New York City. The decision was made based on the fact that they had family in the area, and she could still be legally married in Iowa. Additionally, at the time, a member of the Des Moines Social Club advised her that one can do whatever they wish to do and find support anywhere in Des Moines. With that advice in mind, Tobi sought to build upon the live music ecosystem in Des Moines since she already had experience with running venues, booking artists, and touring. These experiences led to her founding xBk, which is a live entertainment venue in Des Moines in the Drake neighborhood. With the creation of xBk, there was an opportunity to increase the outreach of Station One, create a space to foster an artist community, and diversify the genres of music seen in Des Moines through the venue. Furthermore, with the COVID-19 pandemic, her work as the Board Vice President for the National Independent Venue Association Foundation has pushed for xBk and other businesses to obtain necessary aid through emergency relief programs and additional grants.

Tobi's involvement in the music industry and Des Moines community encourages both the development of those she helps and the diversity of the industry in general. Her determination and inclusive mindset have propelled her to success and make her truly worthy of being nominated for this award. Tobi serves as an inspiration and role model to all, and it is my honor to name her Iowan of the Week.

#### RECOGNIZING THE EXTRAORDINARY SERVICE OF LEN SIMICH

#### HON. DEAN PHILLIPS

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 2, 2022*

Mr. PHILLIPS. Madam Speaker, today I recognize Len Simich for his extraordinary service to the state of Minnesota as the longtime leader of SouthWest Transit.

Since 1997, Len has served as the CEO of SouthWest Transit, a public transit agency serving the cities of Chaska, Chanhassen, Eden Prairie, and Carver. Under his leadership, SouthWest Transit has embodied its mission to be more than a transit agency by putting people first. This approach established SouthWest Transit as a nation-leading suburban transit agency and key contributor to the region's continued growth and economic development.

Len has helped guide SouthWest Transit from nearly the beginning, helming the agency for over two-thirds of its existence. In that time, he has spurred a fourfold increase in ridership, the construction of numerous new transit stations, and the implementation of innovative transit services such as SouthWest Prime. He also helped lead the agency through the many challenges that have faced transportation agencies in the past two-and-a-half decades, including the 9/11 terrorist attacks and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Len's dedication and ingenuity has been recognized time and time again at the state and national levels. Len was previously honored as the Minnesota Transit Professional of the Year, and the list of accolades for SouthWest Transit are too numerous to fully list but include the American Public Transportation Association's Outstanding Public Transportation System of the Year and the Federal Highway Administration's National Environmental Excellence Award.

Even as he embarks on his retirement, both SouthWest Transit and the communities the agency serves will continue to benefit from his visionary leadership. His service has made it easier for families and friends to share moments together, for residents to achieve economic success through access to job openings across the region, for seniors to live more independently and maintain access to the care and services they need, and for all to enjoy unique seasonal events like the Minnesota State Fair. Our region owes a debt of gratitude to Len for allowing us all to enjoy the fruits of his labor, and on behalf of a grateful community, we wish him a happy, healthy, and meaningful retirement.

#### HONORING CHRISTO (CHRIS) LUNDERMAN

#### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 2, 2022*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a tenacious and self-motivated gentleman, Mr. Christo (Chris) Lunderman. Mr. Lunderman has shown what can be done through hard work, dedication, and a desire to achieve success.

Chris Lunderman has been awarded top honors with the 2022 Black Engineer of the Year Awards (BEYA), which recognizes African-American scientists and engineers around the country. The winners chosen are leaders shaping the future of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), as well as promoting diversity and inclusion in the STEM pipeline. He was recognized at this year's BEYA STEM Global Competitiveness Conference, which was held in Washington, D.C., Feb. 17 through 19.

Lunderman, a research physicist in the Information Technology Lab (ITL), received the Outstanding Achievement and Science Spectrum Trailblazer Award, which focuses on individuals who have created new paths for others in science, research, technology, and development. In his day-to-day role, Lunderman leads a diverse, multi-disciplinary team of engineers, scientists and technicians in the design and installation of sensor systems and communications to better quantify the condition of aging infrastructure.